

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. With entry of this amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 9, 11, 14, 15, 17 and 18 and cancel without prejudice claims 2, 12 and 16. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

A. Rejection of claims 15-18 based on § 101

The Examiner rejected claims 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have amended claims 15, 17 and 18 to be directed to a computer-readable medium. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

B. Rejection of claims 1-18 based on § 102

The Examiner rejected claims 1-18 under § 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,331,851). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 11 and 15 to incorporate the recitations of claims 2, 11 and 16, respectively, and have canceled claims 2, 11 and 16. In incorporating the recitations of claims 2, 11 and 16, Applicants have changed the word “till” in claims 2, 11 and 16 to “until.” Applicants have similarly amended claims 9, 14 and 18 to recite “until” as opposed to “till.”

The present invention is directed to synchronous information reproduction apparatus. The apparatus synchronizes and reproduces multimedia information. For example, the present invention ensures that video information is reproduced in synchronicity with musical performance information. The processing time of video information may take longer than the processing of musical performance information depending on the processing capabilities of the reproducing unit. Specifically, there may be a time delay between the start of the reproduction of the video information and the actual output of the video information. (See, e.g., paragraph 0049 of the present

application as published.) As a result, the video information is outputted at a later time than the musical performance information, which results in lack of synchronicity.

The present invention determines the time delay and provides correction such as by shifting the start of the reproduction back in time by the determined duration, so that the actual output coincides with the desired start of reproduction. In this way, the present invention can absorb processing delay between audio and video depending on the processing capabilities of the reproducing unit to ensure synchronicity of multimedia information.

Amended claim 1 recites “a reproduction point correcting section that is provided for measuring a time duration from a start of reproduction process of the object information by the reproducing section until an actual output of the object information from the outputting section, and for correcting the reproduction point in accordance with the measured time duration.” Amended claim 9 recites “a reproduction point correcting section that is provided for measuring a time duration of each object information from a start of reproduction process of the object information by the reproducing section until an actual output of the object information from the outputting section, and for correcting the respective reproduction points of the plurality of the object information in accordance with the measured time duration of each object information.”

In contrast, Suzuki fails to disclose the above recitations. The Examiner referenced two sections of Suzuki as disclosing the reproduction point correcting section in rejecting claims 2 and 9. At Col. 10, lines 38-64, Suzuki discloses an automatic motion correcting means 13. This correcting means corrects the discontinuity between two motions. For example, Fig. 2 illustrates a shape that can be rotated in time along the X and Y axes. There may be a discontinuity for each axis at the end of a motion and the beginning of the next motion. For example, Fig. 6 shows a discontinuity in the rotation angle for the X axis (dotted line) and the Y axis (solid line), between the end of the motion Ma and the beginning of motion Mb in time. Suzuki corrects the discontinuity by averaging as illustrated in Fig. 7 and described at Col. 10, lines 49-53.

Thus, the cited section of Suzuki merely discloses correcting the discontinuity in rotation angle between two frames reflecting two motions. There is no disclosure of measuring a time duration from a start of the reproduction process of an object information (*e.g.*, image information) until an actual output of the object information and then correcting the reproduction point in accordance with the determined time information.

The second cited section of Suzuki also fails to disclose the above two recitations. At Cols. 20-23, Suzuki discloses synchronizing a display of computer graphic images and a playback of music pieces. As illustrated in Fig. 27, score data storing section D1 receives a reproduction start command such as from a user. Section D2 generates wave data based on the output of section D1 with the wave data stored temporarily in audio buffer D3. A beat generating section D7 is also connected to score data storing section D1 and audio buffer D3. Section D7 outputs a synchronizing message consisting of the current score reproducing position (beat ID) and the tempo time based on a particular note, such as a quarter note. Furthermore, the apparatus in Fig. 27 has section for reproducing computer graphic images, such as section D8 which stores scenario data, section D9 which stores AV synchronization data and section D10 which is a display frame determining section connected to the storage of motion data. Suzuki explains:

For each divided motion data in the scenario data, the AV synchronization instruction data generating section D9 generates AV synchronization instruction data that associates the progress of score data with the progress of motion data for a CG character, using as reference one beat of a quarter note (the particular note). That is, the AV synchronization instruction data generating section D9 generates AV synchronization instruction data specifying a displayed frame each time the score progresses by one beat of a quarter note (the particular note). (Col. 22, lines 9-17.)

Thus, the cited section of Suzuki is merely directed to arranging synchronization of image data based on score data, *e.g.*, specifying a displayed frame each the score progresses by one beat. There is no disclosure of measuring a time duration from a start of the reproduction process of an object information until an actual output of the object information and then correcting the reproduction point in accordance with the determined time information.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1 and 9 are not anticipated by Suzuki. Claims 3-8 and 10 which depend from claims 1 and 9 respectively are not anticipated by Suzuki for at least the reasons set forth above.

Applicants have amended claims 11, 14, 15 and 18 in a similar manner to claims 1 and 9, and these claims are not anticipated by Suzuki for at least the reasons set forth above. Furthermore, claims 13 and 17 are likewise not anticipated by Suzuki for at least the reasons set forth above.

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, for any reason, the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles telephone number (213) 892-5630 to discuss any steps necessary to place the application in condition for allowance.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing Docket No. 393032025800.

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